



City of Boiling Spring Lakes

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Boiling Spring Lakes, NC 28461**

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PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

**City Hall
June 18, 2014
6:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE:

**Melissa Thomas ~ Chair
Sandra Krasnow
Bon Cantrell
Bruce Pennington
Mary Green ~ P&R Director
Police Chief Bradford Shirley**

**Bob Stanley
Verda Darrell
Suzanne Goffredo
Mary Stilwell ~ Commissioner Liaison ~ Absent
Pamela Bellina ~ Admin Assistant
Barbara Glidden ~ Commissioner (for Mary Stilwell)**

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

**Beverly and Jim Crabtree
220 Lake Keziah Road**

**Casey Cole
1699 East Boiling Spring Lake Road**

1. CALL TO ORDER ~

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Melissa Thomas at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Thomas stated that they will be switching Old Business with New Business so that Mr. Padgett could make his presentation first.

2. NEW BUSINESS ~

Tom Padgett, District Wildlife Biologist for the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission, made a presentation on alligator safety. He stated his responsibilities and duties for the Commission are everything wildlife in a 9 county district, except law enforcement.

Mary Green and Chief Shirley asked the best way the City can educate the public on alligator safety. Mr. Padgett stated that the public needs to be advised to not feed the alligators as it is against a federal law (not state) and the person can be fined. He suggested that residents should be advised to call the Police when they witness someone feeding the alligators. Alligators

will approach people if they are being fed. Alligators will not show aggression unless they are forced as in protecting its nest or young. The Commission's policy is to not move alligators unless they are aggressive or have been approaching people, are found in a pool, on a porch or patio, or in the road obstructing traffic; however, if an alligator is observed just swimming in a lake, they will not remove the alligator because that is its natural habitat. Moving is not the solution as another alligator will just move in. Alligators also have a homing ability and sometimes will come back to the place they were removed from.

Mr. Padgett provided the City with a sign that his organization posts in wildlife areas and also stated he was willing to work with our Animal Control Officer with respect to alligator removal. He advised that Jimmy English is the local trapper who is permitted by the Commission to catch and move alligators but there is a fee for his service. Mr. Padgett advised that if an alligator gets within 50 feet of a swimmer, that is considered too close and it should be considered for removal. Citizens should also use common sense when it comes to their pets and children around areas where alligators have been seen.

Beverly Crabtree of 220 Lake Keziah Road stated there is an alligator that likes to come up on her property. Jim Crabtree stated that he believes the biggest problem is intentional feeding of the alligators by people who do not live in the area year round.

Casey Cole of 1699 East Boiling Spring Lake Road stated she had an alligator approach her in Spring Lake Park.

Mary Green and Chief Shirley asked Mr. Padgett if he could help the City come up with specific criteria to be followed to determine the removal of an alligator which he has agreed. It was also discussed that a notice can be put with the Welcome Package that the Community Appearance Committee provides to new residents as well as placing a notice on the website and perhaps a presentation by Mr. Padgett for the residents advising as to alligator and wildlife safety. It was also mentioned to ask Jason Tyson from the State Port Pilot to place an article in the newspaper in the Spring each year warning of the start of alligator activity.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ~

There were no additions made to the Agenda.

A motion was made by Bob Stanley and seconded by Suzanne Gofreddo to approve the agenda with the changes.

Motion Carried 7-0

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~

A motion was made by Sandra Krasnow and seconded by Bon Cantrell to approve the May 21, 2014 minutes.

Motion Carried 7-0

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ~

Jim Crabtree asked who should be called if he witnessed someone feeding the alligators and he was advised he should contact the Police Department.

6. OLD BUSINESS ~

A. Survey ~ finalize distribution.

Mary Green stated what has been accomplished since the meeting last month.

Copies of the survey will be available for Advisory Board Members to pick-up on Wednesday at Community Center at the front desk in a folder with their name on it. Please pick up no later than Friday of next week.

Newsletter Builder (internal email newsletter) has about 1300 names now and all email addresses are good, some are residents, non-residents, taxpayers, non-taxpayers.

Mary has been working with Jason at the State Port Pilot on how he will write the story with respect to the survey. She would like the story to run the middle of July.

Surveys are due in 60 days ~ the Committee has all of July and August to get them distributed to local businesses. Mary asked everyone to please get out in your neighborhood and hand them out also.

Shirts ~ Mary would like everyone to buy their own shirt and give it to her and she will have it embroidered. She would like to have all shirts by next Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

Name tags are on order.

Survey Monkey is up and running. There was a big learning curve learning how to use the paid software from the free software.

Melissa Thomas will be providing the City websites to the Baptist Church.

Bon Cantrell asked Mary to provide a PDF version of the survey so it can be emailed out to people in addition to Survey Monkey.

Commissioner Glidden requested copies of the survey be provided to Ann Hollingsworth, Chairperson for Community Appearance, so they can be included in the Welcome Package.

Melissa Thomas stated that she was unable to stay for the entire meeting.

7. COMMUNITY CONCERNS ~

A. Previous Concerns

1. Shade at Muse Park ~ Mary Green is waiting on a quote

2. Alligators ~ Chief Shirley was asked his opinion on how the alligator situation should be handled. Chief Shirley suggested that the City come up with strict criteria for identifying problem alligator situations. He was pleased to hear that Mr. Padgett was willing to work with the new Animal Control officer and perhaps train the officer to move an alligator off a property or a road (not relocate to a different location). This is uncharted territory for the City and Chief Shirley is concerned about creating the proper criteria. He feels that authority needs to lie with the Animal Control Officer and feels the City has a responsibility to educate the public and the need to establish what situation is an emergency and what situation can wait. Informing new residents through the Welcome Package, putting information on the website, having a yearly presentation from the District Wildlife Biologist, press and media coverage are all pro-active steps to informing the public and keeping them advised as to alligator safety.

Commissioner Glidden suggested that since this area will start getting visitors with the July 4th holiday, that an article to be posted in the State Port Pilot now reminding the public not to feed the alligators and to put notice on the website which will start the education process.

BREAK AND PRESENTATION ~

A break was taken at the meeting at 7:30 PM. Ann Hollingsworth presented Melissa Thomas with a Certificate of Appreciation for her time and dedication to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Ann also provided refreshments for the Board. Melissa Thomas thanked everyone and apologized for having to leave early but stated she would still be available to help the Board. Melissa Thomas then departed the meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 7:40 PM with Sandra Krasnow, Co-chair, who stepped in for the remainder of the meeting.

B. New Concerns ~

Bon Cantrell requested consideration of the feasibility of adding lights to the tennis/basketball court area so the kids could still utilize the park in the fall and winter months. The lights could be redirected so as to not bother the neighbors.

Mary Green stated this has been brought up before but the issue stands with the neighbors. The Advisory Board in 2006/2007 chose not to make a recommendation for the lights but that does not mean it cannot be brought up for consideration again. Bon Cantrell suggested putting a time limit on the lights. It was discussed that the parks close at dusk as stated on the signs but that with the lights, the parks could stay open longer. Concerns were raised that the neighbors may not want kids playing in the park until 10 PM at night. Commissioner Glidden stated it could be also considered a security measure for the surrounding neighbors. It was suggested that the neighbors be consulted about adding the lights and the parameters for the time frame.

Lights at the tennis/basketball park will be added to next month's Agenda.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

The first Friday night concert is this Friday, June 20th and the band is the Hired Hands.

The next Friday night concert will be Friday, July 18th and the band will be EBS.

The 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month there will be live music at the community center. This Thursday will be Hired Hands.

Parks and Recreation 10 Year Anniversary Celebration will be on Sunday, August 3, 2014 tentatively scheduled between the hours of 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Dedication of the Disc Golf Course will also take place at the Anniversary Celebration.

9. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ~

1. Lights at the basketball and tennis courts
2. Election of Chairperson

10. ADJOURN ~

A motion was made by Bob Stanley and seconded by Suzanne Goffredo to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted by ~ Pamela Bellina, Administrative Assistant